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**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,583,537****Cocchiaro et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 10, 1996**[54] **COMPUTER GRAPHICS SYSTEM HAVING A PAUSE UTILITY FOR INTERACTIVE OPERATIONS**[75] Inventors: **Charles Cocchiaro**, North Chelmsford, Mass.; **Michael E. Kropp**, Londonderry; **Alexander C. McLeod**, Hudson, both of N.H.[73] Assignee: **Wang Laboratories, Inc.**, Billerica, Mass.[21] Appl. No.: **232,872**[22] Filed: **Apr. 25, 1994****Related U.S. Application Data**

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 771,776, Oct. 4, 1991, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.**<sup>6</sup> ..... **G09G 5/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **345/115; 345/146; 345/902; 395/326**[58] **Field of Search** ..... 345/115, 117, 345/145, 146, 902; 395/156, 157, 159, 155, 161[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**4,586,035 4/1986 Baker et al. .... 340/706  
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A pausing and resuming utility in a computer graphics application allows the user to temporarily suspend a user-interactive operation without completing it. The user may resume the operation where it was suspended and continue in the same manner as if it had not been suspended. While the operation is suspended, the user need not maintain the system input device in any particular state and may use a Help function to obtain system operating instructions.

**35 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**